10% loan since these States fall under the Special-category. Rs. 43.20 crores have been provided in the year 2000-01 and Rs. 24.30 crores was released during the year 2001-02 for various schemes under APDRP in NER.

Uniform electricity tariff rates

2300. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to introduce uniform electricity tariff rates throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

Consumer tariffs are required to be fixed by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) in the States where such Commissions have been set up under the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) Act, 1998 or under the State Reform Acts. Where the SERCs have not been set up or are yet to become fully functional, tariffs are to be determined by the State Electricity Boards/State Electricity Departments/licensees.

(b) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

(c) In view of (a) & (b) above the question does not arise.

Protest against the Power Tariff Revision

2301. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been protest against the power tariff revision at several places throughout India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Some categories of